



Using melatonin to improve atopic dermatitis

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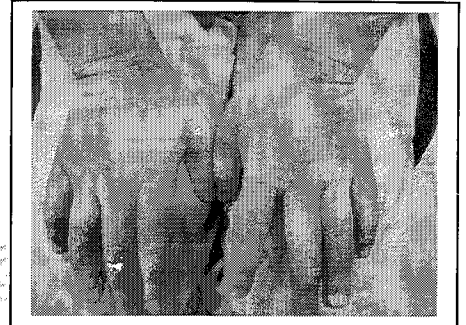
Experience:

Prof. Bor-Luen Chiang

Vice Superintendent, NTUH; Professor of Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics, NTU; Visiting staff, Department of Medical research, NTUH

Dr. Yung-Sen Chang

Attending physician, Department of Pediatrics, Taipei City Hospital Renai Br.; Adjunct Attending Physician, Department of Pediatrics, National Taiwan University Children's Hospital; Adjunct Instructor, School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University



Market Needs:

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a highly prevalent disease affecting 15-30% of children and 2-10% of adults. Currently the mainstay treatment for AD is topical steroids, however, patients often have poor compliance due to fear of the side effects of steroids. Sleep disturbance is very common in AD (47-60%). Melatonin can improve both the dermatitis severity and the sleep disturbance in AD, and therefore has high potential to become a useful choice in the treatment of AD. Currently melatonin is unavailable in Taiwan.

Our Technology:

We have proven with a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled crossover study that oral melatonin significantly improved both the dermatitis severity (decreased the Scoring Atopic Dermatitis Index by 9.1 compared with placebo) and sleep onset latency (shortened by 21.4 minutes compared with placebo) in children with AD aged 2-18 years old.

Strength:

Melatonin is a natural hormone that has an excellent safety profile and minimal side effects, and therefore should much improve the compliance in patients with AD, especially children, compared with topical steroids. Moreover, there is currently no consensus on the management of sleep disturbance in AD, and most sedatives have withdrawal and tolerance problems which make them unfavorable for children. Therefore, melatonin has great potential in the market since it improves both the sleep and the dermatitis severity in AD.

Competing Products:

Topical steroids (for AD); Oral antihistamines and benzodiazepines (for sleep disturbance in AD)

Intellectual Properties:

There is currently no patent concerning the treatment of AD with melatonin. Our team is currently continuing animal studies for evaluating the effect of topical melatonin on AD.

Contact (do not need to fill out):

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